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October 15, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

VIDEOCONFERENCE TO ADDRESS KEY HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

CHARLESTON, IL--When do a student's rights interfere with another's? When do a professor's rights clash with those of his students? How far can one go before a university can legally say "enough"?

These human rights issues in the academic setting and in society at large, will be discussed during a live videoconference that will be shown at Eastern Illinois University Thursday, Oct. 21.

Eastern faculty, students, administrators and community members are invited to view the videoconference, "New Conflict on Campus: Can We Live With The First Amendment?", from 11:50 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Coleman Hall Auditorium. Attendees may come and go as schedules permit.

"The rights of students and faculty to express themselves on campus are tremendously complex. While the First Amendment guarantees the right of free speech, the Fourteenth Amendment provides for equal protection under the law.

"The videoconference will generate a stimulating discussion among panelists about how these two amendments can create con-

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VIDEOCONFERENCE

flict on college campuses and in today's society," according to Cynthia Nichols from Eastern's Office of Affirmative Action, co-sponsor of the video conference.

Discussion topics include the rights of students and faculty to express themselves on campus, the history of the First Amendment and its court interpretations, how the First and Fourteenth Amendments clash and the scope and limitations of freedom of speech in the classroom and the campus community as a whole.

Other areas that will be covered are the differences between rights on public and private campuses, how traditional notions of academic freedom conflict with newly emerging ideas of student freedom, the extent of a university's responsibility to foster a sense of community and evaluation processes to help universities examine their policies.

Charlayne Hunter-Gault, the Emmy and Peabody award-winning national correspondent for The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, will be the moderator. Panelists for the program include Blanche Wiesen Cook, City University of New York professor and noted author; Nat Hentoff, Washington Post columnist and one of the country's foremost authorities on First Amendment defense; and others.

The videoconference is produced by the State University of New York (SUNY) and the PBS Adult Learning Satellite Service.

For more information, call Nichols at 581-5020 or John David Reed in the Department of Journalism at 581-6003.